



Fall 2025

TAFE Newsletter

Texas Association of Future Educators

Monica Oliver, TAFE State Program Director

TAFE State Office, 1833 South IH-35, Austin, TX 78741

Phone (512)443-2100 ext. 8512 | Fax (512)442-3343 | E-Mail: monica@tassp.org



From Our President:

JOSIAH PONCE, COLLEGIATE HS, CORPUS CHRISTI

Howdy Future Educators!

It's crazy to think that we're already halfway through this amazing school year! We've seen so much incredible TAFE involvement across social media, and it's been inspiring to watch each of our Area Teams prepare for their conferences. As Area Conferences conclude, I hope you feel confident, prepared, and ready to bloom where you're planted!

Right now, our legislators could be making history in Texas education. There's been ongoing debate about the future of standardized testing—specifically, the STAAR exam. Recently, legislators introduced House Bill 8, a proposal to replace the current end-of-year STAAR test with three shorter tests spread throughout the school year. Under this bill, the TEA would be required to provide immediate data to teachers and parents, giving them time to respond and support student learning.

When examining a topic like standardized testing, it's important to consider all perspectives—the data these tests provide, how they affect teachers and students, and how we use that information to help every learner grow. Texas has relied on STAAR for years, but by the time many of us are in the classroom, the system may look very different—reminding us that education, like a garden, is always changing and evolving.

Over the next few weeks, as you balance midterms, extracurriculars, and academics, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. But remember—growth doesn't happen all at once. Just like a seed takes time, care, and sunlight blooms, your journey as a future educator will take patience and persistence. Believe in yourself, stay focused, and finish the semester strong.

Additionally, as the holidays approach, I want to wish you an early **Happy Holidays!** Take time to relax, recharge, and enjoy moments with your loved ones. The State Officer Team and I will also be gathering soon for Script Writing, preparing for the 2026 Teach Tomorrow Summit. We're so excited to reunite and begin planting the seeds for another amazing conference experience! We'll also be attending various Area Conferences in the coming weeks. If you see us at your event, don't hesitate to come say hello, chat, or take a picture—we'd love to meet you!

Lastly, as we get closer to state, remember to nurture your projects, support your chapters, and think about your next step in TAFE. If you're a natural leader, strong communicator, or passionate about inspiring others, consider applying to become a TAFE State Officer! You can find details and the application at [Running for State Office](#). For questions, be sure to attend the final Prospective Candidates Meeting in January.

I can't wait to celebrate each of you at the Teach Tomorrow Summit on February 26, 2026! If you ever need anything, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at josiah.ponce123@gmail.com or on Instagram [@josiahp_101](https://www.instagram.com/josiahp_101).

Keep growing, keep blooming, and keep believing in your power to make a difference in the Garden of Education.

Growing With You,
Josiah Ponce, TAFE State President



College Connections:

JASMON SAMPY - ALIEF TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL, HOUSTON
TAFE VICE-PRESIDENT

Hi TAFE,

As we conclude the AREA Conference season, I want to wish you all the best of luck at the State conference. I can't wait to see everyone's creative and exciting projects. As someone who's done everything from trifolds to presentations, my biggest tip is to be confident. If you believe in yourself, so will the judges. You've got this.

As we move into the second semester, remember this is the time when it's easy to fall behind. My advice is to stay on top of your work. If something takes ten minutes now, don't wait until it turns into an hour later. Avoid procrastination, especially for our seniors. Be sure to complete your college applications, scholarships, and FAFSA as soon as possible. Your future self will thank you.

Keep pushing forward, stay positive, and let's finish the year strong!!



KUDOS

PEYTON STEWART - KINGWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, HOUSTON
TAFE SECRETARY

It's that time of season when competitions have wrapped up, we want to wish everyone the best of luck and send huge congratulations to those who have already advanced to State! Special tip: continue to tend to your project, there's always room for growth. We look forward to seeing y'all, and we're sure you'll flourish at the State Conference!

SHOUTOUT TO: BRIDGELAND CFISD TAFE

We see you, Bridgeland CFISD! Thank you for promoting educational awareness and helping spread the word about TAFE. Y'all were even being featured on the official Bridgeland High School CFISD Instagram page... Great work we look forward to seeing what y'all's chapter will do next!

T.A.F.E.
(Texas Association of Future Educators)

To promote positive attitudes regarding all noble aspects of education, to acknowledge the challenging role of the teaching profession, and to provide service and leadership within the school and community.

- TEACHER PANTRY DONATIONS PARTNERING WITH LONE STAR HOLIDAY PARTY AT NURSING HOME IN DECEMBER
- BLANKET SOCIAL NOV 20TH TO MAKE BLANKETS TO DONATE
- MEETINGS 2 TIMES A MONTH

Students are enrolled in classes like principles of education, communication, technology, and other courses can join if interested. This club is open to all students desiring to explore educational positions. TAFE arranges many socials, building strong friendships founded through a shared passion for teaching.

November 14th - competition at Lone Star University Park campus
stacy.morgan@cfisd.net

CLEBURNE TAFE

Shoutout to Cleburne TAFE! Your Kindness Rocks garden is such a beautiful reflection of what true leadership looks like compassion, positivity, and heart. You're literally setting in stone what makes a difference in the world. Keep spreading kindness across the community!



TEXAS STATE COLLEGIATE TAFE

TXST shows up with amazing costumes and a whole lot of fun! Ghostbusters is such a classic movie and the perfect way to bring everyone together for some laughter and connection. Way to show your spooky spirit and remember the importance of recreation!

ALIEF TAYLOR

Y'all aren't just growing bright minds, you're growing leaders who know how to serve their community. We love seeing all the effort put into the garden clean-up, and it's clear your hard work is making a difference. And we have to say those frogs were the cutest cameo!



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- ✓ Purpose - Driven Learning – Encouragement through a biblical worldview

Your Journey to the Classroom



Step 1: Apply for Free

Submit your application in just
minutes — no cost.



Step 2: Acquire Knowledge

Complete weekly assignments,
engage with instructors, and grow
your skills.



Step 3: Start Teaching

Graduate prepared and confident
to lead your own classroom.

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don't have to start over!**

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Tuition Plan	Monthly Tuition	Total Investment
Standard Tuition	\$222/mo	\$10,656 (48 months)
Scholarship Tuition	\$111/mo	\$5,328 (48 months)

- Books and materials included
- No application fees
- Qualification for Scholarship: Household Income Less Than \$ 45,000 USD.

Fast Answers

Start Dates: 5 terms per year

(Summer, Fall 1, Fall 2, Spring 1, Spring 2)

Assignments: Weekly deadlines — no self-paced drifting

Transfer Credits: Up to 60 accepted

Books: Always included in tuition

Certification Track: Eligible for Arizona Certification

READY TO START?
LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN.



APPLY TODAY

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PICTURE THIS: Virtual TAFE Scrapbook

APRIL FERNANDEZ – SILVERTON HIGH SCHOOL
TAFE HISTORIAN

Hey TAFE! Since it's getting closer to the state conference, I want to wish you good luck in your competitions and safe travels. I can't wait to see y'all at state!

→ **Palmview High School** hosted a "Trick or Teach" for their community.

↓ **Clark TAFE** hosted a community ramen bar!



→ **Byron Nelson High School** made so many people's day by having a garage reading session.



↓ **Floydada TAFE** held a Dia de los Muertos arts and crafts day.



→ **Sachse TAFE** made a snack cart to show appreciation to their teachers.





2025-2026 State Service Project

Backpack Drive (Clear Only)

Where: Bring your donations to the TAFE State Conference

When: February 26-28, 2026

Why: Every backpack collected will be donated to Community Partners of Dallas (CPD) an organization that provides essential supplies to children currently in CPS care.

By donating, you're not just giving a backpack - you're giving hope and support to kids who need it most!



Pin Trading at the Teach Tomorrow Summit? YES!

Pin trading is a fun and creative way for people to **CONNECT, COLLECT, and EXPRESS** themselves. While many people think of traditional enamel pins, pin trading doesn't have to be limited to metal designs. You can trade decorated clothespins, handmade trinkets or small personalized items that show off your style.





From the Director

Monica Oliver | monica@tassp.org or 512-443-2100 ext 8512



I can't believe it is almost the new year! The Teach Tomorrow Summit will be here before we know it. Our office and area officer teams worked tirelessly to welcome **6,800+ students** to our 11 area conferences this year. We are excited each area has grown, we welcome new chapters and see more students applying for officer positions. We are finally starting to have consistent practices in place that help conferences run smoothly. The area officers and their teachers deserve a big round of applause for a successful season.

Have you considered running for the Board of Directors? We will have 1 high school teacher leader and 1 middle school position up for election at the Teach Tomorrow Summit. You can find details about the application and past meeting minutes here: [TAFE Board of Directors](http://tafeonline.org) (tafeonline.org)

Student leaders are what keep our organization growing and thriving. We can't continue to grow without them! There are few areas still looking for area officers to round out their teams. TAFE state officer applications are due January 13th, 2025. You can find details here: [Running for State Officer](http://memberclicks.net) (memberclicks.net)

42nd Annual Teach Tomorrow Summit early bird registration will open on December 10th and close January 23, 2026. Hotel costs plus additional information is available here Teach Tomorrow Summit (tafeonline.org)

Registration Information Needed:

- Need all attendee's t-shirt sizes
- Need Judges Information
- [Registration Checklist](#)
- **Judges Fee:** For 1-4 competitors \$200 or provide one judge, for 5-14 competitors \$400 or provide two judges, or 15+ competitors \$600 or provide 3 judges.
- **Student Helpers:** Every registered school will sign up for 2 volunteer shifts during January 26-30, 2026.
- **Submitting Event Changes:** Now open and closes January 30th. Make changes here: Teach Tomorrow Summit Database
- **ELF Testing Window:** Opens January 20th at 8am and closes at
- **Time Selection:** Opens January 19th at 8am CST and closes January 23 at 5pm CST.
- **Pre-Scored Submission:** Opens January 26th and closes January 30 at 5pm CST.
- **Originality Pre-Submissions:** Due by February 25, 2026
- **Have questions?**

Visit the [Teach Tomorrow Summit FAQ](#)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me!



EDUCATORS RISING Upcoming Dates and Deadlines:

- 11/18/2025 Conference breakout session proposals opened
- 12/1/2025 Scholarship applications open
- 1/2/2026 Student officer applications open
- 1/17/2026 Breakout session proposals close

**STATE
QUALIFIERS**

42ND ANNUAL TAFE

Teach Tomorrow Summit



**2026
FEB 26-28
THU-SAT**

ATTEND WORKSHOPS

COMPETE TO GO TO NATIONALS

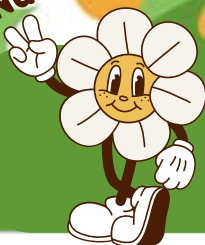
MEET YOUR STATE OFFICERS

COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR

HAVE FUN & MAKE MEMORIES!

**HILTON ANATOLE DALLAS
2201 N STEMMONS FWY
DALLAS, TX**

BLOOMING IN THE TAFE GARDEN



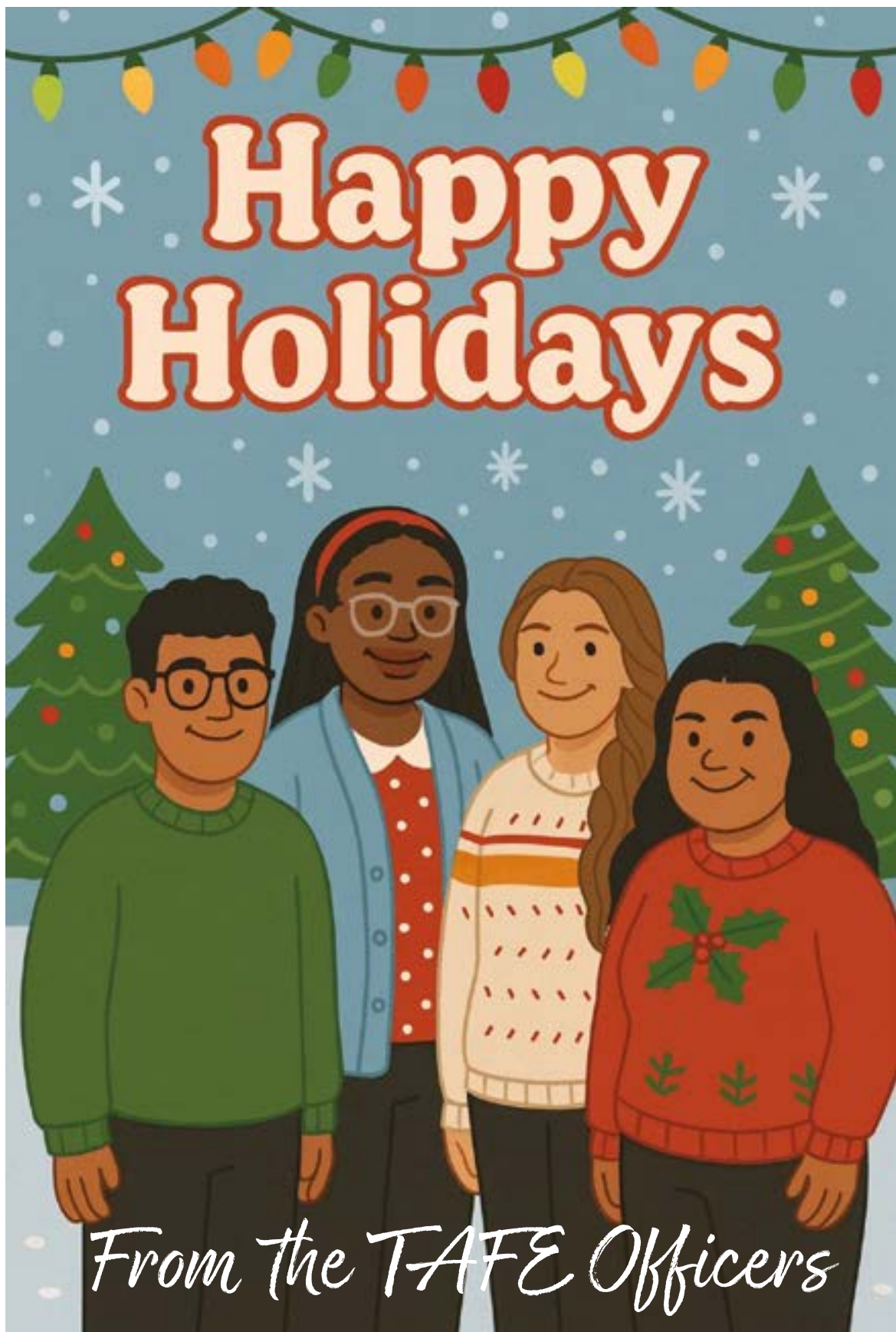
TAFEONLINE.ORG

**TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS
VISIT WWW.TAFEONLINE.ORG**



- Conference Registration begins: December 10, 2025, at 8:00am CST.
- Prescored Materials Submission closes: January 30, 2026 @ 5:00pm CST
- Early Bird Conference Registration closes: January 23, 2026
- Conference Registration closes: February 20, 2026

ALL STUDENTS, TEACHERS, CHAPERONES, VOLUNTEERS, JUDGES AND PARENTS ATTENDING ANY PORTION OF THE CONFERENCE NEED TO BE PAID ATTENDEES.



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